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## \$5.5 Billion in Aid

America's foreign aid expenditures for this year are expected to total about \$5.5 billion. To give you an idea of how much money that actually is, there are only five corporations in the U. S. which have gross annual sales that much or more. This is more than \$30 for every man, woman and child in the U.S.

The new Administration for International Development (AID) is instrumental in how this vast amount of money will be spent. The chief of AID is Fowler Hamilton, a 40-year-old attorney from Kansas City. Hamilton's first government job was as an anti-trust specialist in the Justice Department in 1938. He studied war frauds overseas, headed the Enemy Section of the Foreign Economic Administration and was chief legal counsel for the Justice Department before returning to private law practice in 1946.

Five years ago, Hamilton returned briefly to public life to serve as counsel for the Senate's special air power subcommittee headed by Missouri Sen. Stuart Symington, his close friend. Hamilton is highly enough regarded that he was a strong candidate to succeed Allen Dulles as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Hamilton explains that foreign aid is of a military-civilian nature.

"The purpose of the military expenditures is to give enough strength to the governments in strategic areas, like Korea and Iran, and those on the periphery of the Iron and Bamboo Curtains, so they can withstand Communist conquest from without and Communist subversion from within," Hamilton says, then adds:

"When one turns to the civilian side, I think the principal purpose of aid is to assist other countries that are independent—to assist them in maintaining their independence and to help them grow in strength. This we do because we believe that we in the U. S. can live and prosper in a society of free and independent nations."

Are there going to be "strings" on U. S. aid?

"I certainly know we're going to say this. If you are interested in working with us on an aid program, we work under certain criteria," Hamilton says. "We're engaged in a partnership enterprise in this area. Now, in all partnerships the two partners have to agree on what the objectives of the partnership are and how they will attain them."

Hamilton says that the criteria Congress established for aid to all the nations of the world would participate in a degree that indicates it is serious in carrying out the program, then we're just not authorized to enter into an agreement with that country. Assuming the Congress is going to hold us accountable for that. The criteria will apply whether it's Latin America or elsewhere.

How does the fact a country is getting aid from the Communists affect aid from the U. S.?

Hamilton says that the statute requires that no aid be given to a country that is under the domination of the Communist conspiracy. He adds, however, that consideration is relevant to the question of whether the expenditure of the aid is likely to achieve our objective of strengthening the country that's independent.

Still along this line, what is America's current policy concerning aid to Yugoslavia?

"The future course is now under consideration," Hamilton states. "As to the past, when Stalin threw Yugoslavia out of the Cominform, we thought it would trigger a revolution. Tito proved stronger than Stalin."

"The U. S. stepped in with aid. Yugoslavia, which had been 100 per cent dependent on the Soviet bloc, now has 75 per cent of its trade with the West. Its annual rate of growth is 10 to 12 per cent. It is doing as much better than any of the other Communist countries that it is even giving aid."

"The whole atmosphere of the country has changed. Forty per cent of the farmers are capitalists. They own their own farms. President Eisenhower stopped military aid two years ago and we have retracted other aid as the country's economy has become stronger. The question, of course, is: How much is all this worth? How much is it worth to have Yugoslavia in the situation it is in today?"

Kansas Citian Hamilton is new on his AID

job, but he has given indications of handling it in good fashion. One of the most encouraging aspects, as far as Washington newsmen are concerned, is that Hamilton is quick to admit there still is a lot he doesn't know about his job, and a lot he'll have to learn before he can even attempt to answer some questions. In an area where there are too many individuals who "beat around the bush" or give high-sounding replies when they really don't know what they're talking about, this is refreshing and welcome.

Hamilton gives the impression he will work hard to do a good job in the foreign aid field, and that he will make important changes when he becomes sure they are in line.

Again, \$5.5 billion is a fabulous amount of money. Americans who are making such an expenditure possible have every right to demand that it is well handled. There is a better chance this will be done if men like Hamilton continue to hunt for better, more practical and more efficient ways to operate the program.

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